

# Submission HLG 00096-22: Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination on FS007083 Eirgrid Cross Shannon Cable Project

TO: Minister of State Burke  
STATUS: Completed  
PURPOSE: For Decision and Signature

AUTHOR:  
OWNER:  
REVIEWERS:



DIVISION: Foreshore  
DECISION BY: 11/03/2022

## Final comment

Approved by minister, 10/03/2022

## Action required

Ministerial determination on the Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

## Executive summary

EirGrid PLC have applied for a 35 year Foreshore Licence for laying Electricity Subsea Cables across the Shannon Estuary between Moneypoint Co. Clare and Kilpaddoge, Co Kerry.

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('The Regulations'), the Department has undertaken Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA).

Having considered all relevant material a recommendation has been made that the Minister adopts the Screening for Appropriate Assessment report and reaches the following Screening for Appropriate Assessment determination:

In accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is required as the project individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on European sites. The risk of likely significant effects on European sites cannot be excluded on the basis of objective evidence. This determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the proposed development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

## Detailed information

As part of the Cross Shannon Cable Project, Eirgrid PLC have applied for a 35 year Foreshore Licence under Section 3 of the Foreshore Act 1933, as amended, for the purpose of laying 4 no. 2.8km long 400kV Electricity Subsea Cables across the Shannon Estuary between Moneypoint Co. Clare and Kilpaddoge, Co Kerry.

The cables will be installed by standard installation techniques, which in the most part involves them being buried in the seabed. 2 no fibre optic cables will be include with each of the 400 kV cables, 1 of the fibre optic cables for communication links between both substations which will be integrated into the 400 kV cables and the second fibre optic cable for maintenance and cable monitoring which will be an armoured cable wrapped around the 400 kV cable. The associated works will include the reinforcement of the ground beneath and around the cables by various methods including concrete ramps, infilling with gravel/concrete, articulated pipes and rock armour protection.

The proposed area of foreshore associated with the works is 98.15 ha. Further details of the proposed activity are outlined in the application form and associated documents linked below.

## Environmental Assessment

As part of the assessment of the foreshore application Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd (Arup) with Hartley Anderson Limited were commissioned as *Independent Environmental Consultants* to conduct a Screening for Appropriate Assessment (stage 1 screening) and if required, an Appropriate Assessment (stage 2), of the likelihood of significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites from the proposed works in the application for a Foreshore Licence.

A number of documents have informed the Screening for Appropriate Assessment and are linked below and can also be found on the Departments website at <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/07fcb-eirgrid-plc/>

- [Application form](#)
- Series of 15 drawings (available to view on the Department's Website <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/07fcb-eirgrid-plc/>)
- [Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statement](#)
- [NIS Appendices](#)
- [Planning and Environmental Considerations Report \(PECR\)](#)
- 11 PECR Appendices (available to view on the Department's Website <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/07fcb-eirgrid-plc/>)
- [Planning permission – Applicant response to ABP](#)
- [An Bord Pleanála Order](#)
- [ABP Inspector's Report \[19 March 2020\]](#)
- [Prescribed Bodies Observations](#)
- [Applicant's response to Public Bodies Observations](#)

And an additional document considered below as listed by the IEC and annexed to their Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report:

- A later ABP Inspector's Report [11 January 2021] was downloaded from the ABP website.

### Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The *Independent Environmental Consultants* completed the Screening for Appropriate Assessment report in February 2021 (**Tab 1**) which concluded that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on European sites.

In addition to the Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and with respect to the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, a risk assessment of the effects to species listed in Annex IV which occurs within the project site was undertaken by the *Independent Environmental Consultants* (**Tab 2**). It concluded that no likely significant effects will occur to Annex IV species as a result of the proposed works. This risk assessment of effects to species listed in annex IV is separate to and does not form part of the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report which has examined the Natura 2000 sites and their qualifying interests.

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment report along with all relevant material was considered by the Departments Marine Advisor (environment) who agreed with and accepted the IEC's report and its conclusions and a recommendation has been made that the Minister adopts the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report and reaches the following Screening for Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination:

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('The Regulations'), the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has undertaken Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the proposed project to lay a 400kV cable across the Shannon Estuary, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s).

In accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is required as the project individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on European sites. The risk of likely significant effects on European sites cannot be excluded on the basis of objective evidence. This determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the proposed development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

A copy of all the material which informed the Screening for Appropriate Assessment prepared by the *Independent Environmental Consultants* is linked above. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment report prepared by the *Independent Environmental*

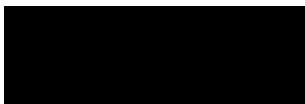
*Consultants*, Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd (Arup) with Hartley Anderson Limited is attached at **Tab 1**. The Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species prepared by *Independent Environmental Consultants*, Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd (Arup) with Hartley Anderson Limited is attached at **Tab 2** and the adoption of these reports is recommended. The Marine Advisor Environmental Report with Statutory Declarations prepared by the Departments Marine Advisor (environment) is attached at **Tab 3** recommending the adoption of the above reports. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination prepared by the Departments Marine Advisor (environment), for Ministerial Determination, is attached at **Tab 4** for signing.

## Related submissions

There are no related submissions.

## User details

INVOLVED:



eSub MOS Burke Office

eSub MOS Burke

READ RECEIPT:

